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Peking Bible House Cornerstone Laying

By the Rev. G. Carleton Lacy, Secretary, China Agency

THE cornerstone of the new Bible House in Peking was laid on August 1, 1927. The ceremony was witnessed by a large and representative group of Chinese, American, British and European Christians. Dr. Y. Y. Tsu, director of religious work in the Peking Union Medical College, offered prayer. Mr. Wu Leichuan, vice-president of Yenching University and a highly respected Chinese Christian scholar, laid the stone and delivered an able and scholarly address, which revealed a deep appreciation of the Christian Scriptures. He was introduced by the Rev. G. Carleton Lacy, Agency Secretary of the Ameri-

time on territory outside of the control of the United States, erecting a Bible House in the ancient capital of China.

Mr. Lacy's remarks were ably interpreted into good Pekingese by Prof. Chou Fuchuan, dean of the Huei-Wen (Methodist) Academy. Staff Captain Sanson, of the Salvation Army, played on his cornet the gospel hymn "Tell me the old, old story," and sang the chorus in beautiful tenor. Crowds of people craned from the windows of passing street cars to hear the music. Then Professor Chou pronounced the benediction, and the ceremony was over.

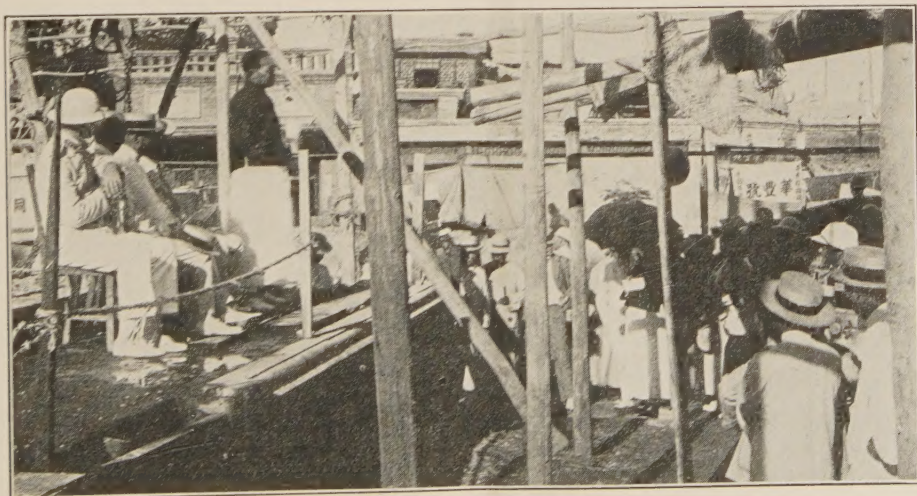
The stone is inscribed

得	義	爲	聖
以	俾	導	經
完	人	人	之
全	格	學	言

"For instruction which is in righteousness: that the man of God may be complete."

II Timothy 3:16, 17

INSCRIPTIONS ON THE CORNERSTONE



THE CORNERSTONE LAYING

The stone is beyond the speaker at the left. Mr. Wu is speaking

an Bible Society, who had come from Shanghai for the occasion. Mr. Lacy spoke of the historical significance of this event that at this time the American Bible Society is, for the first

on one face in English, and on the other in Chinese, with the text as indicated on the printed program. [Reproduced on this page.—Ed.]. Mr. Wu wrote the Chinese characters,

and his distinguished penmanship has been reproduced on the stone.

Among the articles sealed in the brass casket that was placed in the stone were numerous reports of American Bible Society work, pamphlets, a Bible with special inscription on the cover written by General Chang Chih-kiang, a new Testament such as is being distributed by the Million Testaments for China Campaign, coins discovered in digging the foundations for the building, and recent Chinese dollars. There was also included a copy of the anniversary number of the *China Courier* (July 13, 1927), in which appeared an advertisement of the American Bible Society publications, and an article entitled "The World's Best Seller in China," which described some of the Society's activities during recent months.

The new Bible House, which stands on the corner of Hatamen Street and Meicha Hutung is the gift of the Maryland Bible Society, and is being erected at a cost of approximately fifty thousand dollars gold. It is expected to reach completion before the end of next year.

The building, designed by the Presbyterian

Mission architects in Chinese style, will be fireproof throughout. Ample accommodations will be provided for salesroom, offices, and go-down, to carry on the distribution of more than a million volumes of Scriptures each year. In addition, there will be assembly and committee rooms, a library in which will be gathered various editions of the Bible, and a vault to provide for the safe-keeping of the valuable manuscripts and plates. Already a number of these priceless manuscripts have been presented by relatives and friends of translators, and it is anticipated that more of the treasures will be collected before the building is ready for dedication.

Immediately adjoining the Bible House there is being erected a comfortable residence for the Secretary in charge. This faces on a pretty garden looking toward Meicha Hutung. It is under roof, and a very comfortable and attractive home it will make. We have saved the trees on the place; so a good start is already made toward the beautifying of the premises. The upper windows have a splendid outlook over town.

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The Bible and the Home

IN "The Bible and the Home," which is the topic for Universal Bible Sunday* this year, there are brought together two of the dearest words in the Christian vocabulary. It is impossible to think of the typical American home of the past three centuries without seeing an open Bible at its center. No more representative scene could be suggested than that which so gripped the imagination of the American people when President Coolidge took his oath of office in the simple surroundings of his Vermont boyhood home with the open Bible and the familiar kerosene lamp on the table in the center.

But we are bound to admit that there are competitive influences bidding for attention in the present-day home and making it difficult to maintain a distinctive place for the Book in these homes. Indeed, home life as a whole is in danger, not so much because of evil forces as because of the multiplicity of the interests and appeals that crowd upon it. To mention but a few—the automobile, the moving pictures, the radio, the increasing interest in outdoor life—these, good in themselves, nevertheless tend to break up the cohesiveness of the family life of a generation ago, and to substitute other and

less elevating influences for the Bible as the important ones in our home.

It is to be remembered also that with the Bible an unknown book in the schools of so many states today, it would be most unfortunate to have it crowded out of the home life of the nation. It is the belief of many good people that the crime wave, of which so much has been said, is due in no small degree to the lack of the inspiring and restraining influence of the Bible in the home.

These facts, together with the realization that the homes of so large a part of the world are still Bibleless, led those responsible for the plans for Bible Sunday to decide upon this topic for emphasis this year.

The subject was particularly near the heart of the late General Secretary, Dr. Arthur C. Ryan, and many of his friends and associates will feel that the day will also be in some measure a memorial to him and his work.

Dr. Ryan strongly felt that a house without a Bible, even though it was the abode of a family, was lacking in that which makes it truly a home. And so he wished to have emphasized in the poster which has been issued the fact that the blessings of the Christian home were still denied to more than half the

*December 4th.

world. It was his hope that this realization would stimulate a desire to extend that blessing to the Bibleless homes more and more widely, until there should be no Bibleless homes the world around.

"What makes a house a home?" writes one. "All languages have a word for house. Many languages have no equivalent for the English word home. It is the love and faith and peace which the Bible puts into hearts that make the essence of home." What better gift can we, who have true homes, give to the lands and races without it, than the Bible?

In suggesting that more than half the world is living in homes that have no Bible, care has been taken not to outline definite continents as light and others as dark; for it is true that even in the most Christian countries there are all too many Bibleless homes. In the last annual report of the Pacific Agency of the American Bible Society the Secretary writes: "From our reports and observations we judge there are fully 200,000 homes in the Pacific Agency

that are without any Bibles whatever, whether Catholic, Jew, or Protestant."

This is in a territory where the population is approximately only six million. This would indicate that nearly twenty per cent of these homes are Bibleless, and we doubt if the conditions in the country as a whole would show great variation from this figure.

It is most encouraging to know that a larger number of churches each year are observing Universal Bible Sunday. The American Bible Society seeks to promote the observance of this day, not primarily for its own gain, but to assist the Christian people of our land to continue to place the Bible in the center of all Christian life and activity.

As in previous years special literature, including a poster, a brochure for the use of pastors, and leaflets for wide general distribution are available without charge* for all churches which will observe the day.

*For this literature address the American Bible Society, Bible House, Astor Place, New York City.

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Five Stories from Central America

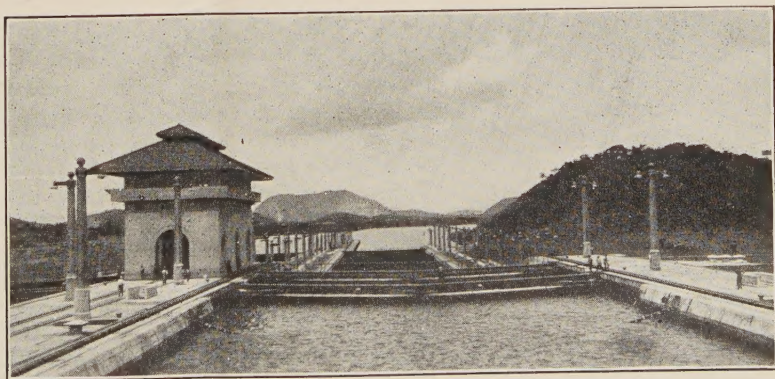
By the Rev. R. R. Gregory, Secretary, Caribbean Agency

DOES the distribution of the Bible produce results? Does the Bible reach all sorts and conditions of people? Is the influence of the Bible abiding and self-propagating? These are legitimate questions. And here are some pertinent answers.

I. A Telegraph Linesman Plants a Fruitful Seed

The silent missionary, the Bible, is very patient and waits for its opportunity. About ten years ago, when a telegraph line was being constructed in the interior of the Republic of Panama, a linesman gave a Bible to a native along the road. It remained an unknown book in that man's home for several years. Two years ago, some one told him that there was a group of people in Panama City who could explain to him the contents of that book. Traveling some eighty miles, he spent two weeks at the Sea Wall Methodist Mission at Panama City, and took an intensive course of study under the mission's pastor. He then returned to

tell others what he had learned. Recently, the superintendent of the mission received word to send him a minister and a school teacher. Three preaching points have been opened up. This man has evangelized the country for many miles around his home.



LOOKING AHEAD FROM THE LOCKS THAT LET SHIPS DOWN TO THE PACIFIC LEVEL

II. Happy Self-preservation

Don Ramon Hernandez served as a colporteur of the American Bible Society for many years in Guatemala. He was selling Scriptures in one of the fanatical regions, when he was warned not to go to a certain community

or he would be chopped to pieces by machetes (long knives used to cut brush, etc.). Throwing these threats to the winds, he went on selling his books. Along the road he overheard a conversation between two men: "Where are you going?" asked one of the other. "They say there is a Mason up here, and I am looking for him with my machete. Come along and we will get rid of this devil." The other agreed, and they started up the road together.

"How are you, friends?" called out Don Ramon as he came near them. "We're going up the mountain hunting for a Mason, to kill him with our machetes." "What is a Mason?" asked Don Ramon. "A Mason is a terrible man, who does not believe in God," one of them replied. "Oh, is that so? Then he must be very bad indeed," replied Don Ramon. Drawing out one of the Bibles he was carrying, he started to read several interesting portions of the Word. The men became intensely interested, and finally bought some of the books. Then Don Ramon told them that it would be a crime to take even a Mason's life; that they were in danger of landing in prison, and that they should abandon their plans.

Regarding him now as a real friend, they took his counsel and all three came happily down the mountain together—another victory for Jesus Christ—all of them carrying the Book that, according to Paul, breaks down the "middle wall or partition and makes us no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and of the household of God." So Don Ramon was not molested.

III. The Gringo Woman

As I was working in the town of Boqueron, which is situated in the interior of the Republic of Panama and not far from the boundary line of Costa Rica, some one pointed out to me another little hamlet about five minutes' walk to the north.

I plunged into the wilderness along the jungle path, and in about half an hour came to a group of squalid cane huts buried in the tropical forest. I was about to return to civilization, when I found another path leading off still further into the wilds. I inquired of one of the natives as to where it led. "Oh," she replied, "that is where the Gringo woman lives." "Gringo woman," I cried in surprise. "Well, I can't go away without hunting her up."

And at once I started out, until I came to a creek which I crossed with difficulty. Once across, I met a little fair-skinned lad and asked him where the Gringo woman lived. "Up there," he said, with a wave of his hand and a curious look in his eyes. "Up there, where you see those palms at the top of the hill."

At the top of the hill I came to a large square frame house with a balcony running around it, and, after managing to get by two ferocious dogs, I found myself face to face with an open door at the back of the house, and within, standing by a table, the Gringo woman.

She might have been about thirty-five years of age, with a countenance as fair and as clear as a Viking's and long golden hair; but never anywhere have I seen a harder or more forbidding face. The story of her life had been a sad one. The daughter of a foreigner, she had gotten in trouble with a native, and her father compelled her to marry him, and then left her alone to make the best of her situation. In a short time she drifted along, until she was living on a level with the natives around about her.

"What do you want?" she asked gruffly, in English. "Madam," I replied, in a sympathetic voice, "I am the representative of the American Bible Society, and I have come to sell you a Bible."

"We don't want any Bibles around here," she snapped.

Not discouraged, I took from my bag one of the best Bibles, and laid it wide open on the table.

"This book is well bound, has large type, maps and references, and sells for only seventy cents."

"What do we want with a Bible?" she said, scornfully. "We have no use for Bibles."

"Well, if you have no use," I replied, "perhaps your children have."

"What use have they got," she protested. "They have to go to school two miles every day."

At this point, in rushed, hopping and skipping, a little half-caste child about ten years. "Mother, what is this?" the child said in Spanish, picking up the Bible. The mother's face colored, and to save her embarrassment, I replied, "Why, a Bible, child." "What is a Bible?" she asked. "Why a Bible is God's Book, and tells about Jesus." And then I followed up with the story of Jesus blessing the children; the manger story at Bethlehem; and with the stories of Moses, and Daniel in the lions' den. The children listened wide-eyed, and wondering. "Tell us more," they clamored; for not one was now missing of her five children.

The mother's face was a picture. "Mother, are all those stories in that book?" they cried. The poor astonished mother could not answer. "Madam," I said, "do you know all these stories?" Her eyes dropped. "Do you want your children to grow up without knowing them?" I continued.

Without a word, the mother left the room, and I heard, behind the partition, a rusty lock turn, and then a clinking of coins. The Bible was sold.

IV. Lives Changed

Don Juan Palazina and his wife, Italian immigrants, had the course of their lives changed when they came in contact with the Rev. Francis G. Penzotti and his Bible. As a result most of the years from 1897 to 1915 were given to colportage work with the American Bible Society in the Republic of Venezuela.

The conversion of Don Juan's wife was especially interesting. At first she was not as receptive and sympathetic to the Bible as her husband. She was a fervent worshipper of the Virgin Mary, and candles were constantly burned before the image, which was set in a prominent place on a shelf in their humble home. The persistent Penzotti was not discouraged, because he believed with the Psalmist "the entrance of Thy word giveth light." Victory came at last. One evening Mr. Penzotti was reading from the Bible to them in their home. He read and read, and various chapters were discussed, until the candle on the table burned out. The patient and resourceful evangelist did not quit and go home, but took one of the large candles burning before the image of Mary and turned it into a more useful service, and continued reading until the Light of lights lit up the inner life of Don Juan's wife. She was soundly converted, and from that day until the close of her earthly life she became the mainstay of her husband in a work that too often had its visible rewards, hardships and persecutions.

Many were the colportage trips Don Juan and his wife took together with an oxcart loaded with a supply of Bibles, and in this way visiting out-of-the-way places and returning only when they had disposed of their precious cargo.

V. Bible Burning and Three Years Afterward

In 1922, one of the American Bible Society's colporteurs and a Presbyterian missionary witnessed the burning of Bibles by a Roman Catholic priest in one of the interior towns of Colombia. Three years after this burning of Bibles, the Presbyterian missionary, the Rev. Clifford Douglass, visited the same town, and relates the following story:

"I visited Ituango, where the Bibles were burned three years ago. [The event was reported in the RECORD of August, 1923.—Ed.] A man who had become interested in the gospel insisted on our making a visit to Ituango. A woman, who keeps a hotel, promised him

that she would receive us; but, as soon as the priest brought pressure to bear, she was obliged to refuse us, or herself be turned out by the owner of the property. The priest had gotten word of our intended visit, and for two weeks preached, exhorting the people under pain of excommunication not to give us or sell us anything, not even a glass of water.

"The person who, on the former occasion, had rented us a room had moved away, and since we did not know a person in town, we left. We had gone about a mile, when a man came running after us; and when he got up to us and had caught his breath, he invited us to return to the town and stay at his house as long as we chose. It turned out that this was the young man who had come to our room three years ago and, after buying a Bible, had gone away with it hidden in his shirt. He showed us that Bible, and, still better, we knew by his actions that he had read it and was putting into practice some of its teachings. He and his wife entertained us for three days. Many men, and even women, came to talk with us. There was no place for a public meeting; but we had conferences with two to twenty people every day from early morning until ten o'clock at night. A number of them offered us their home when we came the next time, and they did it in such a way that we knew it was not pure formality on their part. We feel that the Lord has opened to us a door in a place of great need through the power of his written Word."

From West Africa

THE Rev. Dr. Melvin Fraser, translator of the Bulu New Testament, in accepting election as an Honorary Life Member of the American Bible Society, writes from Lolodorf, Cameroun, West Africa, these gracious messages and interesting facts:

For many years, and increasingly, I have thought of the American Bible Society, modestly doing its effective work without observation or crying in the streets, as a most valuable asset to the Kingdom-building in general, and to our West Africa Mission enterprise in particular.

The 5,000 copies of the Bulu New Testament, which I brought out on returning from my recent furlough, caused jubilation among the native tribes and tongues. Large numbers of the books, when distributed among the different stations, were eagerly purchased and devoured by present and former pupils of our schools. The text is a great help with my students. One of them remarked, and all of them agreed, that they had thought that the translation would make the meaning of all the text easy to understand, and I tried to explain that the text is a translation, not exposition or commentary on the deep Word of God.

You may be interested to know that, at its last annual meeting our Mission asked me to translate the

Book of Isaiah—which I shall be glad to do as fast as other duties will allow. Other members of the Mission, well qualified, are at other parts of the Old Testament. The hope is that the entire Old Testa-

ment will be translated quite within three years, and ready to be bound up with the New Testament in Bulu. That will be a happy day, for the entrance of the Word truly giveth light in dark Africa.

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Among the Colored People in the Flood Area

REPORTS from the distribution of Scriptures in the Mississippi Valley flood area, by the Secretaries of the sub-Agencies of the Agency among the Colored People of the United States, are an addition to this story of fine ministry. Through the work of the Rev. H. W. B. Wilson, D.D., Rev. D. H. Sansom, Jr., Rev. S. A. Lucas, and Rev. M. L. Vaughters, more than 28,800 portions were distributed. Among the interesting items they have given are the following:

At Baton Rouge, we found the Red Cross headquarters in the State House. Those in charge received us very kindly and gave us permission to do our work in their camp. In this camp there were 3,789 negroes. This crowd represented every state of mind imaginable. Most of them were happy and smiling. Some seemed to be contented, but not happy; and others seemed to be longing for their homes in the bottom lands. It was touching to see them huddled in little groups or sitting about telling of their escape from the onrush of the waters. One thing very noticeable was the absence of anything to read. I do not remember having seen any books in but one tent. Most of these people barely escaped with their lives; while others, I am told, were made to leave at the points of bayonets.

We visited every tent in this camp and placed a copy of Scriptures in the hands of each inmate that could read. Many were the expressions of joy that came to them when we gave to them a copy of the Word of God. One old lady said that she was glad that somebody thought enough about them to bring her a Bible and to tell her that God still cared for them. In this camp we found many Sunday-school workers, who expressed themselves as being happy to have a chance to get their hands on the Bible again. In and around this camp was an atmosphere of helpfulness. Everybody seemed to be trying to do what they could to make these people happy.

* * *

Lafayette being a larger camp, we were thrilled with the thought of having an opportunity of doing a larger service. But, to our surprise, we met the defiance of a Catholic priest, who forbade the circulation of the New Testaments and Gospels among the refugees. This camp contained nearly four thousand negroes. The priest told us that ninety-five per cent of the refugees there were Catholic; further stating that only about eight per cent could read and write. Just a few days before our arrival some white worker was roughly handled by these people, because he was distributing and urging the reading of the New Testament Scriptures. At this place we were told by a Protestant minister that the entire city official and even the editors of the newspaper were Catholics. Notwithstanding the above facts, there were left among the refugees about five hundred Gospels. We saw nothing in the way of literature in this camp in the hands of refugees.

In the Protestant camps the Gospels and New Testaments

were eagerly received with expressions of thankfulness that God, through the American Bible Society, had remembered them with his Word. Special care was taken in giving Scriptures to those in camp hospitals.

It was a large task, and we hardly knew just how to begin it. However, it was not long before we realized the impossibility of doing the work by direct contact with the people. We then decided to reach them through the pastors and their churches. In this drive we were successful in securing the cooperation of approximately 150 pastors having charge of at least 250 churches. It was rather a hard and expensive task to get in touch with so many pastors and churches; but this seemed to be the only available method of reaching the thousands of suffering people in the area we had planned to cover. We had a chance to visit an active camp at Marian, Ark. One hundred tents were there, occupied for the most part by colored people, the white people having been provided for in private homes in the town.

Some of the refugees were there for their second time, having returned to their homes after the waters subsided only to be driven back by the second rising of the waters. They had planted their crops twice, and twice they were swept away by the overflowing of the rivers. They were greatly discouraged. After the waters subsided again they would be forced back upon those lonely, devastated farms to eke out a miserable existence at the mercies of cruel landlords. We visited every tent, giving them the Scriptures with our own hands, speaking words of consolation to them as we passed on.

• • •

My Old Bible

By Edmund Pillifant

THOUGH the cover is worn,
And the pages are torn,
And though places bear traces of tears,
Yet more precious than gold
Is the book, worn and old,
That can shatter and scatter my tears.

When I prayerfully look
In the precious old book,
Many pleasures and treasures I see;
Many tokens of love
From the Father above,
Who is nearest and dearest to me.

This old book is my guide;
'Tis a friend by my side,—
It will lighten and brighten my way;
And each promise I find
Soothes and gladdens my mind
As I read it and heed it today.

To this book I will cling,
Of its worth I will sing,
Though great losses and crosses be mine;
For I cannot despair,
Though surrounded by care,
While possessing this blessing divine.

Shining Lamps

The Bible in Asia Minor

By F. Lyman MacCallum

WHAT follows when the Bible is sold or presented to a Mohammedan?

Very much what happens when any other person takes this book into his hands for the first time. Some dip into it and put it aside for a more convenient season—which seldom arrives. Some, because of the attitude of mind with which they approach it, do not understand or misunderstand. And some take it to their hearts, striving to carry out its teaching amid circumstances as difficult and lonely as it is possible to imagine. It is such lives, shining like lamps in dark places, that make the work of Bible distribution in this part of the world well worth the anxiety and effort. Every Bible placed in the hands of a non-Christian is a spiritual adventure.

As is so often the case with real-life adventures, the records are very incomplete; but a few stories of Bible distribution within the Levant Agency may indicate what is going on.

In a Kurdish Village

Imagine a large, low-raftered room in a Kurdish mountain village. The men are gathered, as is their nightly custom, to smoke and discuss the weighty affairs of their world. Suddenly the loud laughter and louder discussions die away, for Mustapha has stood up in order to be nearer the one little bracket-lamp that pierces the murk with faint beams, and is fingering the pages of his book. He brought it back, a few weeks earlier, from a visit to the distant city, and has since been reading to them from it, night after night. He is a plodding reader and gets hopelessly bogged over some of the longer words, but they listen patiently, for they themselves cannot read a sentence. And such strange, exciting tales he brings to them. Stories of a Man who seems to them like a Kurd in his wanderings from place to place, in his fearlessness, his love for his comrades. But he was also a master magician; he performed miracles, healed the sick,

and never failed to get the better of the most powerful devils. He taught kindness and love; for which they praise him heartily.

But he would have them extend this even to their enemies—which seems to them quite wrong. Yet, he himself mysteriously refused to summon angel battalions to his aid when his enemies crucified him. . . . Squatting there in their reeking village clubhouse, with their lean faces turned intently toward the toiling reader, they are children peering through the window of a strange house where marvelous figures and novel ideas appear unexpectedly and move about disconcertingly, yet with an irresistible attraction.

The reader ends, and the village sheikh

addresses him, "Tomorrow you are going back to ———, they tell me. Do not fail to call on the strangers who gave this book to you, and assure them that we all thank them from our hearts. Give them the greetings of our village." And Mustapha gladly promises; for he is on fire to discover the meaning for his own life of this precious Testament. Though there is no Christian within twenty-five miles, there is surely

a Presence in that hall as the Kurds fall to discussing among themselves the meaning of what they have just heard—a perfectly natural Bible Class. Happily this is not a unique instance within the territory of the Levant Agency.

The Village Women

While their masters are spending the evening in the rendezvous, the village women enjoy smaller gatherings of their own. "They love to listen, and will gather round me till late at night, begging me to keep on reading," explained the wife of a village man, who happened to be on a visit to her native city. She had been reading them the Koran and collections of Moslem traditions and legends. She was delighted to receive a New Testament, and promised to share it with her neighbors.



CAMEL DRIVERS IN ORNAMENTED RAINCLOAKS

"Last spring," writes a very warm friend of the Society, "a bright little woman, Fatima, came to our hospital from an outlying village. As I grew to know her I wondered at her unusual responsiveness. She told me then of an Armenian Bible woman who, years before, had often visited her and helped her to understand and love the Bible. The Bible woman had been exiled into the desert and had died an unknown death, but the seed she had planted was here, alive and growing. I told Fatima Dr. Henry Van Dyke's story of Canadian Natalie, who kept the lighthouse shining, and then spoke of her own needs and of those of the women and children, her village neighbors. She understood quickly, and as she went down the stairs, clasping a New Testament and an hymn book and some story leaflets, she promised that the light would shine in her village. No word has come from her, nor have I been able to visit her, but I trust that the Book is still doing its work."

Life in those remote villages is hard, above all for the women. It was in such a village that poor, broken old Ayesha crept to the side of the visiting American lady and poured out her despair. She had been well brought up by her father, even to the extent of knowing to read and write. But her husband, after using her shamefully, turned her off, and now she was a drudge in the large household of a married brother. Not only did she have to bear in silence all the abuse which it pleased them to put upon her, but she had to stand by while her growing boys were ill used. After a long and comforting talk Ayesha was given a New Testament and urged to read it and bring her heavy burdens to God. Nine months later the visitor passed that way again and found Ayesha still sad and burdened, but bearing her hardships with a new spirit. "If it were not for the help I get from the Book, I couldn't go on," she confessed.

In another instance the Bible has become the mainstay of a woman who is suffering through having to live in close confinement with a jealous younger rival. They are both wives of an old and rather weak man, who brought great unhappiness to his home by taking in this second wife, a bigoted Moslem. The whole family of four live in a single room, so that there is no escape from each other. The older woman is not free, as a rule, to go out to Christian

services; but, as she can read, she depends largely for her spiritual food on her own Bible study. She reads every day, and not to herself only, but often to her husband and the critical fellow-wife. She is learning trust and gentleness in her trying situation.

Non-Christians Interest Non-Christians

It occasionally happens that non-Christian Bible lovers find opportunity to interest nominal Christians in this Book of Books. Esma Hanum, who is devoted to the Bible, met the wife of a petty government official and guessed that she was an Armenian by birth, although married to a Turk. She saw the girl several times and was finally able to talk with her intimately. Esma Hanum's guess was correct; the girl was an Armenian and a nominal Christian, but she had no understanding of personal belief in Jesus. So the nominal Mohammedan pointed the nominal Christian to the Way of Life, giving her her own Bible and hymn book.



"NEW CITY," SUBURB OF ANGORA—LIKE AN AMERICAN SUBURB

"I have had a great gift today," said the grateful girl. Esma Hanum has been able to help some other such Christians, and is steadily gaining in courage and readiness to share her spiritual experiences.

There is a young man, Ali, who had somehow seen a copy of the New Testament when he was a boy, and had been captivated by the story of St. Paul. For six years he tried without success to find another copy of that book. At last, when a native Christian worker was calling in the home, Ali asked where this story could be found. That very day he had a copy for his own, and soon afterwards there was added to it a translation of the book "On the Road to Damascus."

Another Ali, a sturdy gray-haired man with a bright twinkle in his friendly eyes, is also a lover of the Book. As youth and man he had given himself to deep and devout study of Mohammedan spiritual teachings. Then a native friend gave him a New Testament, which he read earnestly, though he had no one to explain

what he read. He heard that there were Americans interested in this book and came several times to talk about it. A large reference Bible brought him great happiness, and was used constantly until a "hoja" (Mohammedan religious teacher) saw it and begged very earnestly for it. With old-fashioned Turkish generosity, Ali gave it to the hoja, although it was now the most prized of his possessions. Ali is very feeble now, and can no longer come to call, but he is delighted to receive visits in his pleasant home and is grateful beyond words for instruction in Bible truths.

In past years, when Bible distribution was less hindered than it is for the time being, many Turkish Testaments and Gospels were given out, and it is certain that some, at least, of these are still being read in city homes and scattered villages. It is evident that Moslem hearts are warmed by the same love, thrilled by the same ideals, made strong by the same practice of self-sacrifice, and purified by the same atonement as are the hearts of Christians. The joy of reaching them with the work, of feeling their eager response to a wider spiritual horizon, is beyond measure rewarding.

Notes and Comments

THE Home Agencies Annual Conference is in session at the Bible House as this RECORD goes to press. The Secretaries of all the State Bible Societies are present, with the Secretaries of all the Home Agencies of the American Bible Society, save the Pacific Agency. A fine spirit prevails and the conference promises to be very fruitful.

THE Rev. A. Wesley Mell, having been much benefited by his six months' rest, has resumed full charge of the Pacific Agency. It seemed well, however, that he should not undertake the long journey to New York and the strenuous days of the Home Agencies Conference.

HAVING rendered most acceptable aid at the Home Office through August, the Rev. J. Oscar Boyd, D.D., has sailed, with Mrs. Boyd, to resume direct charge of the Levant Agency, with his headquarters at Constantinople.

THE Rev. Paul Penzotti, having seen one daughter graduate and then married, during his brief furlough in the United States, has started back for his duties in the La Plata Agency. He goes by way of Spain, where he will spend a few weeks in visiting Protestant churches as a delegate from the Protestant churches of his field in South America.

FROM a letter from Prof. B. O. Duggan, of the department of Rural Education, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, the following excerpts are taken:

It may be of interest to you to know that I began teaching in the public schools of Tennessee on the third Monday in July, 1889, and that, at the end of the first month, I bought in Shelbyville, Tenn., an American Bible Society Bible for \$1.50. This book is now in my desk in reach of my hand, as it has

been during the past thirty-eight years. It is one of the most highly prized of the few things which I bought with my first month's salary as a teacher, and which I have carried to this day.

Your Society has made a wonderful contribution to our civilization since its organization, and I feel like congratulating the Society most sincerely.

IF THE BIBLE HAS A MESSAGE FOR
YOU, IT ALSO HAS A MESSAGE FOR
YOUR NEIGHBORS THE WORLD
AROUND

The American Bible Society conducts
work in the five continents and many
islands of the Seven Seas, and is your
agency for providing your neighbors
with the Bible.

THIS clipping has been received without indication of its source. The prayer of John Milton on the old Latin Bible deserves thoughtful reading:

Rummaging in an old Devonshire attic while home on furlough recently, an English officer came upon a Latin Bible dated 1581 and bearing on the title-page the signature of John Milton! The famous poet had written on the blank leaf a prayer in these words: "O Blessed Lord God, who hast commanded that we should not add to thy Word nor yet take from it, grant I beseech thee, that I may neither think thy certain true Scriptures to be doubtful, nor the uncertain to be Canonically, but possess me with awful and reverent thoughts . . . that I adoring the fullness thereof, may avoid all haste, supine, forced, and uncharitable expositions, and fetch my little light and candle of knowledge from that first Light my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen."

THE Rev. C. C. Hembree, of New York City, sends in this comment:

The foundation of the Woolworth Building goes down 125 feet, and there rests upon a granite base;

but God's verbally inspired Word rests upon God's great eternal throne.

• •

AN annuitant thus expresses himself in a recent letter :

Sawtelle, Calif.

Again I have to thank you for the promptness wherewith you have sent my interest. I am another of the "Happy Annuitants" mentioned on page 121 of your RECORD for July. It is a great pleasure to me to think that it is settled that you will have my estate when I have done with it. You are doing the best missionary work that I know of, and I never forget to pray for your work.

• • •

A Midyear Report

By Earl A. Hoose, Sub-Agency Secretary, Peking, China

THE much-talked-of awakening of China seems to be developing into a reality. It would require superlatives to describe the happenings of the past six months. With the movement of the Nationalists of the South, and the opposition of the Northern forces to such advances on their position and territory, the months have passed with much speculation and excitement. Peking, although seemingly far from the scene of conflict, has suffered the terrors of rumors and expectation of a change in government, with the question of what the future holds for missions and missionaries, and the future of Christianity. One of the chief topics of mission gatherings and mission groups, or of individual speculation, has been native leadership and control. The travail of a people in the throes of a new birth of freedom and an expression of that freedom cannot be imagined by the outsider. The stress and distress of the days are not to be recorded in cold type. The puzzle is a Chinese puzzle indeed, difficult of solution. But there is borne in upon us a conviction, that whatever the outcome,—and who is left to doubt the ultimate outcome of the present civil strife,—there will be a place for the distribution of the Scriptures. It is a movement of China for the Chinese, and at no distant date they may wish to have charge of the printing and distribution of this Book of Life, the Word of God.

It is clear that all the months of change and warfare are hard to evaluate in their direct effect upon the work of the Society in this city of Peking and the territory we serve. The subsequent report of the work of the sub-Agency for the half-year just ended will best illustrate the conditions.

Society Housed in New Temporary Quarters

The work of the Society in Peking is now carried on in rented quarters. Soon after the

ONE Life Member has a suggestion for others in her conception of her responsibilities, as revealed in these excerpts from her letter :

Normal, Ill.

I have always felt that "Life Member" was not merely an honorary title, but carried certain responsibilities with it. I think a Life Member should see to it, if possible, that when she is no longer here there should be another to take her place. I did that some years ago by making my niece a Life Member. I think the Life Member should also, if possible, see that a regular contribution is made to the Society's funds. This I do, but because of the failure of my usual source of supply I am a little late in getting the money this year. But here it is. I enclose a check for Ten Dollars.

last report the work of seeking temporary quarters during building operations at the Bible Society property was taking much of the sub-Agency Secretary's time. A lease was secured on the Methodist Mission Social Service Center's office and chapel building at No. 43 Hatamen Street. It was fortunate that an option was secured early, and the lease signed; for there was an unexpected development, and if the agreement had not been made already, we might have been obliged to seek further. It is an excellent location, and a building most suited for our needs as salesroom and offices. We moved last of February with little trouble, and only a week's time expended in the moving. Immediately we came in touch with the Methodist organization we found them interested, calling on us for Bibles, Testaments and portions. This shows that contacts only are needed to place the Society in the best light before the people, and permit the latter to learn that we are ready and stocked to supply their needs so far as our publications are concerned.

Building Operations

The excavation for the new Bible House and the Secretary's residence was begun as soon as possible after the frost was out of the ground in March. We had just finished moving the last load of goods when the carpenters and masons appeared to demolish the old buildings; they were a wreck in a few days. Our building committee was active, and things began with a flourish. The breaking of ground for the Bible House occurred on March 25th, at 4.30 p. m., Dr. N. S. Hopkins, then chairman of the committee, turning the first shovelful of earth. The residence foundation had already taken form, and at that date workmen were beginning to make the place resound with ham-

mer and trowel. Delays occurred; the first owing to the deed for the property being in New York City. The Legation went security for our producing the deed when it should arrive from New York, and the police officials kindly gave permission to go ahead slowly, pending the arrival of the written permit which would be issued when the deed was in hand.

Once or twice the bounds were overstepped, and the foreman taken to task for placing materials on the street without a permit in writing. The demolishing of a part of the building adjoining the street before the written permit was issued gave rise to a visit from the officer of the law; but the genial frame of mind of

selves with Soviet matters. At this time occurred the raid on the Soviet Embassy, and the examination of the materials taken.

Another matter was the necessity to request the telephone company to move a pole off our entrance. All these things delayed our work and cost us money. The selection of the brick at the kiln has also been an occasion for delay, as the brick delivered without our selecting it could not be used in the walls.

Dr. N. S. Hopkins, who served us so admirably as chairman, having gone to the States, our building committee is now composed of the following men: Dr. H. S. Houghton, superintendent, Peking Union Medical College,



TURNING THE FIRST SOD—PEKING BIBLE HOUSE, MARCH 25th, 1927

Left to right: Mr. Fan, depot assistant (second); W. B. Pettus, dean Yenching School of Chinese Studies; Chinese foreman, Earl A. Hoose, sub-Agency Secretary; Dr. N. S. Hopkins, chairman Bible House building committee; Samuel Dean, architect and construction engineer; W. W. Wilson, Peking Medical College; Dr. J. G. Ingram, American Board Mission; representative Peking Leader.

this individual was soon apparent, when he said, "Your permit has not yet been issued. Be cautious." And we were careful through those days, awaiting the photostatic copy of the deed, and wondering if it would satisfy the exacting official of this Oriental city.

Another and longer delay was owing to digging into the city sewer on our lot directly under the foundation for the Bible House. It was necessary to get permission from the Police Office before this sewer could be moved out to the street. The work was delayed more than six weeks while the police, instead of issuing the permit for the sewer, busied them-

chairman; Mr. Dwight W. Edwards, general secretary, Peking Y. M. C. A.; Mr. William B. Pettus, principal, North China Union Language School; Dr. J. G. Ingram (retired), American Board Mission; Mr. G. G. Wilson, superintendent of works, P. U. M. S.; and Mr. S. M. Dean, architect, American Presb. Mission.

These men have been invaluable in council, and on matters relative to the buildings. It is gratifying that men in such important and exacting positions, and of such wide experience in building in China, are willing to serve as members of our building committee.

(To be continued)

Airmen and the Bible—Continued

WE regret any statements in these columns that are open to misunderstanding or any misstatements. But we do rejoice in the evidence that these pages are carefully read.

In connection with the article on "Airmen and the Bible," which appeared in our August issue, our attention has been called to the fact that a Bible was presented, by the New York Bible Society, to Major H. G. Scott of the British dirigible R-34 on the occasion of its round trip from England to the United States in 1919. The Bible carried by Commander Byrd was therefore not the first to cross the ocean by air, though it was the first to cross by aeroplane. Since the previous article was published a letter has been received from Commander Byrd, in which he writes:

"I wish to extend to you my sincere thanks for the Bible which you presented to my shipmates and myself. I, too, think it very appropriate that the Bible should be the first book to cross the Atlantic by air."

From the Pacific coast, also since our August article on this subject, has come word of the pocket Bibles given by the Pacific Agency of the American Bible Society to each of the contestants in the Dole race to the Hawaiian Islands. A San Francisco daily quoted Paul Schuler, navigator for the Aloha, the second airship to arrive in Honolulu, as expressing "the hope that during his voyage he might have time to read his copy." How appropriate that the Book which has had such a large influence, in the last hundred years, in changing the life of these and other Pacific islands from the night of savagery to the present day of peace, prosperity and hospitality, should be carried by the early aviators to land on the Hawaiian Islands, as it was taken to them by the early missionaries, in the long ago?

The reference in our August article to the Bible coming to America in the Mayflower was the occasion of another comment, which we gladly share with our readers. This comment came from Richmond, Va., and emphasizes the well-known fact that the Bible was brought over earlier to Jamestown—"The code drawn up (1606) by James I, for the regulation of the Colonists who landed at Jamestown in 1607, ordered the daily reading of the Scriptures and services of the church—which readings and services were faithfully held by the Rev. Robert Hunt as long as he lived; and Bibles are mentioned specifically in extant papers dating from 1608 and 1610, as being in the hands of various settlers. The Christian religion was planted here along with free government prior to the sailing of the Mayflower."

BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD

EDITORS *The Secretaries*

NEW YORK, OCTOBER, 1927

AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY

INSTITUTED 1816

Bible House, Astor Place, New York

AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER BOARD MEETINGS

NO meeting of the Board of Managers was held in August or in September. Under previous authorization of the Board, joint meetings of the General Reference and Finance Committees were held on August 4 and September 1, 1927, at which disposition was made of matters needing action.

The Recording Secretary reported that Dr. Robert E. Speer had accepted election as a Vice-President of the Society and the Rev. Drs. Ozora S. Davis and Daniel A. Poling had accepted election as Honorary Vice-Presidents.

The Treasurer reported the following consignments to the Society's Foreign Agencies during the month of July, 1927: Brazil, 95,238 volumes, valued at \$3,254.67; Caribbean, 30,769 volumes, valued at \$658.97; Japan, 5 volumes, valued at \$2.38; La Plata, 4,487 volumes, valued at \$924.95; Upper Andes, 52 volumes, valued at \$49.67; West Indies, 165 volumes, valued at \$223.86; total volumes, 130,716; total value, \$5,114.50.

The issues from the Bible House during the month of July were 399,653 volumes.

The Treasurer reported the following consignments to the Society's Foreign Agencies during the month of August, 1927: Brazil, 105,872 volumes, valued at \$1,192.03; Caribbean, 23,010 volumes, valued at \$849.75; Japan, 3 volumes, valued at \$1.70; La Plata, 2,505 volumes, valued at \$890.66; Mexico, 1,685 volumes, valued at \$1,319.64; Philippines, 100 volumes, valued at \$61.08; Upper Andes, 16 volumes, valued at \$15.72; West Indies, 30 volumes, valued at \$50.88; total volumes, 133,221; total value, \$4,381.46.

The issues from the Bible House during the month of August were 240,289 volumes.

FORM OF A BEQUEST TO THE SOCIETY

I give and bequeath to the American Bible Society formed in New York in the year eighteen hundred and sixteen, and incorporated in the year eighteen hundred and forty-one, the sum of _____

If real estate is given, for the last three words above, "the sum of," substitute the words "the following property, to wit."

LEGACIES

Auxiliary Societies on Do- nation Account	\$ 977 40
Auxiliary Societies on Book Account	3,632 61
Home Agencies	19,849 08
Returns from Scriptures Donated	1 00
	<hr/>
	\$68,785 35

AUXILIARY SOCIETIES

MISCELLANEOUS

Annuity Account Invested \$	192 50
Annuity Department	180 92
Bible House Rentals.....	10,517 31
Bible Society Record.....	15 31
Division of Information..	1 00
Funds Received for Transmission	156 52
General Salaries and Ex- penses	2 05
Gifts for Distribution to the Blind from Individ- uals	343 50
Gifts from Churches.....	16,205 89
Gifts from Individuals....	11,623 69
Income from Available In- vestments	12 06
Income from Legacies and Gifts Trust Funds..	972 84
Manufacturing Credits....	55 43
Mississippi Flood Fund..	68 00
Scriptures to the Blind..	46 09
The Trade	474 76

Donations from Auxiliary Bible Societies:	
Belvidere, N. J.....	\$176 00
Pennsylvania	635 00
Gifts from Churches.....	433 16
Gifts from Individuals.....	306 92

RETURNS FROM SCRIPTURES DONATED

Moers, Rev. W. A.....	\$1 00
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RECAPITULATION

Legacies	\$ 1,100 00
Gifts Subject to Life Interest	43,225 26

Total Cash Receipts....\$109,652 91

GENERAL CASH STATEMENT

RECEIPTS

DISBURSEMENTS

Bills of Exchange.....	\$ 4,420 00
General Salaries and Expenses.....	5,845 90
Treasurer's Office—Salaries and Expenses...	2,199 86
Bible House Expenses.....	3,814 89
Appeals.....	1,697 85
Diffusion of Information.....	3,387 97
Annuity Department.....	16,061 69
Bible Society Record.....	167 56
Real Estate.....	1,200 00
Cash reserved for Publication Department...	32,842 55
Home Agencies.....	13,264 15
Foreign Agencies.....	559 42
Funds Received for Transmission.....	31 52
United States Trust Co.—Available Invest- ments.....	1,723 95
United States Trust Co.—Annuity Account...	15,188 14
Scriptures to the Blind.....	1 25
Miscellaneous Home.....	600 00
Miscellaneous Foreign.....	3 00
Church Budget Costs.....	10 00
Legacy Expenses.....	110 75
Library.....	60 92
Broadcasting.....	50 00
Blind Fund.....	10 00
Special Annuity—Income and Expense Acc't	57 50
Translation and Revision.....	329 00
Sundries.....	1 60
Balance to August, 1927.....	72,807 52

\$181,446 99

\$181,446 99

PUBLICATION DEPARTMENT CASH STATEMENT

Balance from June, 1927.....	\$ 3,137 90	Publication Department	\$16,679 81
Transferred from General Cash.....	32,842 55	Balance to August, 1927.....	19,300 64

\$35,980 45

\$35,980 45

Total Cash Balance.....	\$92,108 16
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American Bible Society

Instituted 1816

Bible House, Astor Place

New York, N. Y.

BIBLES *and* BONDS



"Pass it on"

"Girdling
the Globe
with the
Gospel"